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IMMIGRATION

ALLAN BENNER/ QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Candice Cashman holds a picture of her children, drawn by her friend Jacinto Garcia Garcia, who is currently at the Niagara Detention Centre under a removal order.

'I'm in limbo here'

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

Wearing the bright orange jumpsuit of a prisoner, Jacinto Garcia Garcia walked into the small room at the Niagara Detention Centre and picked up the phone.

"I'm in limbo here," he said, as he looked out through the inch-thick Plexiglas and heavy steel bars that separate prisoners from visitors.

Garcia has been in jail for years while authorities in three countries decide what to do with him.

See CUBA on Page 2

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LOCALNEWS

■ CUBA

Garcia remains in Thorold detention centre

From Page 1

He was convicted of the sexual assault, assault and criminal harassment of his now ex-wife. But five years later, he's still there.

Garcia said he initially left Cuba Jan. 2, 2007, hoping for a new life away from the persecution he feared in the communist country. He said he was one of dozens of others who crowded onto a small ship to escape the country.

He eventually made his way to the U.S., he said, where he was granted refugee status.

Garcia remained there for a year and a half, until he crossed the border into Fort Erie for a vacation to visit friends.

In April 2009, he married Dawn Colson.

Less than a month later, Garcia was arrested and later convicted of assaulting her, and locked up in the Niagara Detention Centre.

Garcia was originally due to be released Feb. 9, 2011. Now, more than three years later the 41-year-old is still being held in maximum security at the Thorold prison.

He's been in custody so long, he has also served the three years of post-release parole while still behind bars.

On March 8, 2011 after he had served his initial sentence, Garcia said was loaded on a bus and taken into the U.S. — deported by Canadian immigration authorities.

But when he arrived in the U.S., Garcia said he was promptly put in an American jail where he remained for three months before being shipped back to Canada.

He's been at the Niagara Detention Centre ever since.

"I was put here forever," said Garcia, who said he learned to speak English during his incarceration.

"I want to get on with my life."

Canada Border Services Agency spokeswoman Nancy Thomson confirmed "Garcia is in detention and is under a removal order."

She said the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act allows border authorities to detain people when the officer has reasonable grounds to believe a person cannot be admitted into Canada, although their decisions are assessed regularly by the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Garcia's next monthly detention review hearing is slated for Wednesday.

While several of his supporters hope he might finally be free, Garcia wasn't overly optimistic.

He said he feels "like a volleyball," lobbed from one government agency to another as he strives to regain his freedom.

Charles Hawkins, a spokesman from the Immigration and Refugee Board, said it's rare for someone to be left in prison for years as a result of immigration detention. He said there are only about eight people in all of Canada who have been detained for more than three years under those circumstances.

"Immigration detention is not meant to be punitive. And it cannot be indefinite," Hawkins said.

He said he knows of other people who have been held as a result of an immigration detention for as long as seven years.

During Garcia's Jan. 17 detention review hearing, Immigration and Refugee Board presiding member Ken Thomson discussed the issues that have kept Garcia locked up.

"The problem with dealing with foreign governments such as Cuba is they do things at their own time, and we cannot. The Canadian government cannot control when they will give an answer," he told Garcia during the hearing, conducted via telephone.

"Now, although you've been detained for a lengthy period of time it does not mean indefinite detention. The case law does not specify a period of time as to what constitutes indefinite detention."

Although Thomson said the length of time a person has been detained was taken into consideration, "lengthy detention, even for a period greater than two years, in itself will not support a finding of release if there are other reasons to support continued detention.

"In your case, the criminal activities involve violence and sexual convictions referred to in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, and it's been determined that conditions of release will not sufficiently negate the danger, and can be supported for a decision for continued detention even though detention has been lengthy," Thomson told Garcia.

At Garcia's March 12 hearing, he will be represented by Lily Tekle, a staff lawyer from the refugee law office at Legal Aid Ontario.

Tekle won't comment on his case due to the pending hearing.

"Unfortunately at this time, I don't think I feel comfortable communicating with you only because proceedings are still pending and we are making efforts to potentially work on a release plan for Mr. Garcia," Tekle said in a voice-mail message.

Fort Erie resident Candice Cashman is one of several people who have agreed to act as a surety for Garcia if he is released.

"I have a lot of people who want to be responsible for me," Garcia said.

Cashman has no concerns about vouching for the man to whom she was once engaged.

"He never once was violent. He never once was aggressive," she said. "I wouldn't even question whether he would be a danger to me or my children."

While Cashman is confident Garcia poses no danger, Colson said she remains fearful of him.

And since Garcia has already served his parole while in custody, Colson is concerned that if he's released in Canada there would be no way to ensure her safety.

"That's kind of the issue. We're trying to figure out how to best be protected if this happens, but there's nothing there," she said.

Although she could get a restraining order against him, she said that will likely take months before it's approved. If Garcia is released in Canada, she said, he won't even have a parole officer checking in on him.

Welland MP Malcolm Allen has taken an interest in the case over the past few years, advocating on behalf of Colson, his constituent.

"If you have a right to be in the country, then you have a right to be released. But in Mr. Garcia's case, he was deported to the United States. He has no right to be in the country at all," Allen said.

"The difficulty is finding a way to deport him back to Cuba."

Allen said he's discussed Garcia's case with Cuban authorities, and "the difficulty is that Cuba doesn't seem to want him."

Nevertheless, Allen and Colson agree that the situation needs to be resolved.

It costs Canadian taxpayers about $111,000 a year to keep a male prisoner in custody, according to information published a year ago by the Office of the Correctional Investigator.

"They cannot hold a person indefinitely," Colson said. "But he's here in prison and something needs to get done. He can't be left in limbo."

Ideally, Colson is hoping Garcia will finally be permitted to return to Cuba.

"I think it would be best for everyone, and in everyone's best interest — for myself, my family and several of my friends ... and it would be very beneficial for Mr. Garcia to go back home and be around his own family as well," Colson said. "I hope for everyone that it will happen."

But Garcia fears what might await him if he returns to Cuba.

Garcia said he could be thrown in prison in that country for having spoken out against the Cuban government.

Garcia said his father, Jacinto Garcia Sr., criticized the Cuban government years ago. His father was taken to a military hospital and never came home, Garcia said. Blaming the government for his father's death, he said he began speaking out against the government, too.

"My family told me the government was going to put me in jail for 30 years," he said.

Garcia made it clear at his last review hearing in February that he does not want to return to Cuba.

"If you have problems, political problems in Cuba, I don't agree with the communists and I don't want to be repatriated. If I'm here it's because you want to deport me, then you can deport me. But that doesn't mean that I want to be repatriated," he told immigration officials.

Cashman also fears for Garcia's safety if he returns to Cuba.

"For him to go back, yes, they would essentially throw him in jail if not kill him," she said. "It's not safe for him to return there."

In the meantime, Allen has been working with Colson to develop a private member's bill in the hope of getting more access to information about the status of people involved in immigration cases.

Under current legislation, Colson said much of the information concerning Garcia is confidential.

"Even if he gets released, no one is notified of where he is. Even if he gets deported, I don't get to know," she said.

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■ ACCESSIBILITY

Ramp it Up in Pelham

MELISSA MANGELSEN
PelhamNews Staff

The Niagara region has the third oldest population in Canada and a growing need for accessibility.

To help the Town of Pelham become a more accessible community, Leadership Niagara introduced Ramp it Up.

"Pelham is the first community that we've done Ramp it Up in," said James Frederico, the manager of facilities and services for Niagara College and a Leadership Niagara participant.

Its goal is to address the needs of those with mobility issues, whether it is a stroller, wheelchair, motorized scooter or cane.

"The fact is 15.5% of Ontarians are disabled. This project supports the town's vision of being vibrant, creative and caring," Frederico said.

Not all businesses in Pelham are accessible. Steps prevent those with mobility issues and their companions from entering.

Ramp it Up's solution is a free portable ramp provided to the business. The ramps will be built by E.L. Crossley and are removable to prevent theft and vandalism. They are also aesthetically pleasing and will be brightly coloured so they stand out, Frederico said.

The Leadership Niagara program runs until the end of June, but Ramp it Up hopes it will pave the way for other communities to get on board.

"We want to engage various community partners in a collaborative effort to increase awareness. By the end of June, we hope this program is self-sustaining," said Kathy Bell, a registered nurse for the Niagara Region and a Leadership Niagara participant.

"There is a real need for this program in Pelham, but it also creates awareness. Before this project I didn't realize how big of an issue accessibility was," said Bell. "We hope to see it continue across Niagara. I think Pelham is just the beginning."

Council had liability and insurance concerns about ramps going up on public property, which town staff plans to look into.

melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca

IN BRIEF

Water rates in Pelham unchanged

Residents in Pelham won't see an increase on their water bills this year. Council approved keeping water and wastewater rates the same on Monday. Water rates have been set by the Town of Pelham on a fixed charge component and a rate for consumption usage. Due to the installation of the accurate smart meters that have the ability to detect leaks and provide a more accurate reading, the town has seen a reduction in water consumption.

"Pelham has the best wastewater system in the region," said Mayor Dave Augustyn. "Having no change in cost attests to this good-news water and wastewater budget."

Save Maple Acre

A large group of Maple Acre supporters were at Pelham council Monday to fight for their library. The Maple Acre branch of the Pelham Public Library faces an uncertain future due to upgrade costs and overall needs of library services. A petition was submitted to council with more than 1,000 signatures of people who want to work towards finding a solution that does not result in a loss of library services.

Coun. Richard Rybiak recognized the support from the community and asked staff to put together a timeline dating back to 2008 on what decisions were made in the past regarding the branch. Rybiak believes council has already made a decision that Maple Acre was going to be replaced.

"I want to make sure we're making a decision that hasn't already been made. I'd like to see all the information so we're sure we're dealing with it appropriately," said Rybiak.

Arena staff to get lunchroom

Staff at the Pelham Arena have been using an impromptu lunchroom located in the arena Zamboni room. The conditions were described as "dreadful" and staff did not have access to a sink or private washroom facilities. Council agreed to move forward with the purchase of a $67,035 trailer-style lunchroom building equipped with washrooms. CAO Darren Ottaway said the purchase would go through "tomorrow" for the trailer, but an estimate on when it would be delivered wasn't yet clear.

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COMMENT

Hockey for mental health a good idea

We've been publishing stories for some time now about the problems with the mental health system.

It is often fractured, underfunded, and never has enough specialists — from mental health nurses to psychiatrists — to met the demand. Too many people fall through the cracks far too often.

Worse, most people are unaware of what resources are actually out there for them because, all things being equal, no one ever considers where to turn in the event of a mental health crisis until they experience one.

So it is heartening to see Brock University Students Kevin Christmas and Paul Dermody trying to make a difference.

They are organizing a students vs. professors charity hockey game later this month. But their focus is less about hockey and more about helping connect their peers with mental health resources. Those who come to the game will learn about where they can turn and students who become part of the game are being asked to make short videos talking about why they would like to see the stigma eliminated.

The two young men, who have both had to cope with mental health issues themselves, know well how difficult it can be to navigate the system and cope with the stigma that often gets attached to brain illnesses.

In a university setting, where there can be tremendous pressure on students who, after all, are building their futures, learning about where to turn and when isn't actually a priority.

This is not so different from life outside campus. People have jobs, bills and families to look after. And let's face it, we're bombarded by messages urging us to take care of bodies, but we don't hear much about caring for our minds. So we, as a community, are largely ignorant of where to turn when there is a problem.

There are resources for students on Brock's campus. Christmas and Dermody just want their peers to know about them.

They want those students facing a problem to know that they do not stand alone, and there is no shame in seeking help.

The game — which costs a mere $2 donation for Active Minds, a campus based group that helps students with mental health issues — is being held at the Seymour-Hannah Sports and Entertainment Complex in St. Catharines on March 26.

It might not be the most thrilling hockey game you'll ever see, but it will go a long way to helping those who really need it.

Tax relief stuck in machinations of regional government

DAVE AUGUSTYN
Mayor Town of Pelham

What started as a simple idea, giving folks tax relief now instead of over the next four years, turned into a debate about the authority of regional council.

During our finance committee meeting Feb. 19,, councillors approved Staff recommendations to allocate $13.7 million in surpluses from 2013 into various reserves, including: $0.75 million to contingency reserve; $0.75 million to niagara regional housing to mitigate a federal funding loss; $0.85 million to top-up social assistance reserve; $3.9 million to fund future waste management capital projects; $1 million to improvement initiative reserve (for cost saving measures); and $3.3 million to taxpayer relief reserve.

The $3.3 million to the taxpayer relief reserve was to "...be used in the operating budget" to provide a buffer against tax increases over the next four years. The reserve would allow future councils to increase overall spending greater than increases in property taxes.

While Counc. Petrowski suggested that some of the surplus be "given back to taxpayers" in 2014, he didn't try to amend the recommendations during our committee meeting.

Upon reflection, his comments resonated with me as the region's budget chair.

Why hold on to $3.3 million of people's money now when we are to "give it back" in 2015-18 anyway?

Having just had a visit from the credit rating service, we knew that the region's reserves are in good shape.

We are also expecting significant operational savings as we implement a new financial management system, reorganize the region, and identify additional efficiencies.

In addition, not taxing residents and businesses $3.3 million in 2014 would "hold our feet to the fire"; it would remove the temptation of spending the funds on non-priority initiatives and force us to justify any future tax increases.

So, at the Feb. 27 regional council meeting, Counc. Heit and I tried to amend the motion and to use the $3.3 million to reduce the 2014 Regional tax increase.

What happened? We debated our amendment for two-hours; some councillors favoured the proposal, a few suggested we keep half, and some wanted to hold on to it all.

Then, immediately after council voted to "call" the vote on our amendment, staff said that we couldn't because it would be a "reconsideration" of our surplus/deficit policy.

Undaunted, I argued that the surplus/deficit policy is administrative because it "...applies to all regional departments" and not to regional council. Further, the policy outlines the clear role of staff (to recommend) and of council (to approve/disapprove).

In the end, the majority of council voted that the amendment was a "reconsideration" of the policy, required a week's notice and two-third's of council to even contemplate!

That's how the straightforward idea of giving people tax relief now got stuck in the machinations of your regional government.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

March break heats up at Pelham Public Library

FRAN GILES
Pelham Public Library

By the time you read this March break will be in full swing.

Pajama Parade Storytime for younger children is on March 13 at 10 a.m. and Cardboard Creations for their big brothers and sisters is at 1 p.m. Both cost $4 and take place at the Fonthill Branch. On March 14, 1 p.m, same venue and price, is Terrific Trendy Ties. Plenty of room for entertainment and creativity.

For adults, there are the useful programs, gadget clinic, hearing clinic, employment help: resumes and cover letters, early years van visits (useful for mothers), and the entertaining events of bridge, 3 book clubs, and TGIF crafting.

Mark your March 31 on your calendar, Tom Bishop of Ridgeville will talk about his life with Tom Bishop's 4B Ranch Productions, "North America"s Only Surviving Wild West Show" at 7 p.m. for $4.

The long-awaited start of the Spring Book Sale is March 24 at 10 a.m. It continues until March 25 at 5 p.m. Bargains galore, with donations of books still be accepted at the Fonthill branch.

Turning now to books, I have selected two each from the adult fiction and non-fiction new book lists. In the fiction category, there is Sarah Addison Allen, with "Lost Lake," a novel of the south-eastern U.S. It is a story of the search for closure, a second chance, peace, the solution to a mystery, the mending of hearts, all focussed on "a once charming collection of lakeside cabins, succumbing to the southern Georgia heat and damp." Sounds intriguing. A completely different type of story for those who love history, action and the sea is "Take, Burn or Destroy" by Vancouver Island writer, S. Thomas Russell. It is set in 1794 and billed as an "epic novel of naval adventure." It is in the same series as "Under Enemy Colors" and "A Battle Won," by the same author.

In the non-fiction category is "Philomena: a mother, her son and a 50 year search," by Martin Sixsmith. It is, of course, the book on which the movie of the same name is based, we also have the movie on order. For those who enjoy true crime,"The Cornbread Mafia: a homegrown syndicate's code of silence and the biggest marijuana bust in American History" by James Higdon should hit the spot. It takes readers back to the the 1970s and 1980s and the clash between federal and local law enforcement and a band of Kentucky farmers with moonshine and pride in their bloodlines." Sounds exciting but safely distant in both time and place.

I hope you'll come to our book sale, revel in the quality and choice of materials on offer, and spend a lot. See you there.

LOCALNEWS

PUBLIC SAFETY: Design takes cues from New York City fire services

New crest for Pelham fire department

SUPPLIED ILLUSTRATION

Pelham fire services revealed its new crest Monday to town council.

MELISSA MANGELSEN
PelhamNews Staff

Town of Pelham fire services has fresh new look.

At a presentation to town council on Monday, Ben Gutenberg of Pelham Fire Station No. 1, Jeremy Deroos of Pelham Fire Station No. 2 and Joe Kita of Pelham Fire Station No. 3 unveiled the services' new crest design.

"It's time to have some personality and individuality for Pelham fire services," said Gutenberg. "We wanted a fire services crest that complements the town's new logo design and colours."

The rebranding committee decided on the New York Fire Department (FDNY) shape to honour the 343 fallen firefighters from 9/11, and they incorporated the Maltese Cross, which is a badge of honour for firefighters, signifying their courageous work. The axe and pick axe that are tools of the trade for firefighters were included, as were the maple leaf and the Town of Pelham logo colours.

"This crest symbolizes the values of all firefighters who serve the residents and visitors of the Town of Pelham, and pays honour to the history and dedication of those who serve and have served in the fire services worldwide," said Gutenberg. "We are proud to wear a crest that reflects this pride and honour for all to see."

The rebranding committee, which included representatives from Pelham's three fire associations and town staff, helped narrow down the design options before all members of Pelham's fire service had an opportunity to vote. The final design is expected to make its way onto uniforms and fire trucks this spring.

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NOTICE OF DECLARATION OF SURPLUS LANDS AND PROPOSED SALE

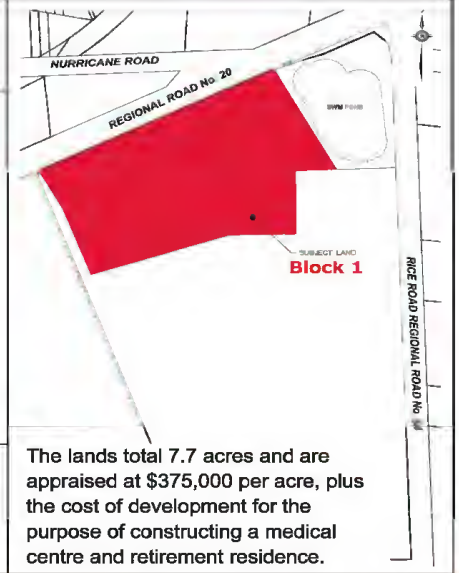
NOTICE

WHAT IS THIS?
Pursuant to the Town of Pelham Sale of Real Property By-law #1942(1997), Notice is hereby given of the proposed sale of municipally owned lands.

Information

MORE INFORMATION
At their special meeting of Council on March 3, 2014 the Council of the Town of Pelham passed the following resolution:

THAT the lands described as Part of Township Lots 161 and 166, Thorold & Part of the Road Allowance between Lots 161 & 166, Thorold (stopped up and closed by RO196052), being Part 1 on Reference Plan 59R-12687, except Part 7 on Reference Plan 59R-14225, subject to an Easement in Gross over Part of Road Allowance between Thorold Township Lots 161 and 166, being Part 8 on Reference Plan 59R-14225, as in SN306187, Town of Pelham, PIN 64063-0240(LT), being Block 1 as per the Land Exchange Plan, be and are hereby declared surplus to the needs of the Municipality and therefore available for disposition.
THAT staff be directed to provide Notice of the Declaration of Surplus Lands and Intended Sale in accordance with the Town of Pelham By-law 1942(1997);
AND THAT staff be directed to prepare the necessary by-law to provide for the sale of said lands for consideration by Council at the regular meeting scheduled for **March 17th, 2014.**



The lands total 7.7 acres and are appraised at $375,000 per acre, plus the cost of development for the purpose of constructing a medical centre and retirement residence.

pelham.ca

CONTACT US
A copy of the preliminary plan and by-law may be viewed at the Office of the Clerk during normal office hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Nancy J. Bozzato, Town Clerk, P: 905-892-2607 ext. 315 E: nbozzato@pelham.ca
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE - PORT ROBINSON ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

NOTICE

WHAT? Public Information Centre regarding reconstruction of Port Robinson Road between Station Street and Rice Road in Fonthill.

WHEN? Tuesday March 18, 2014, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

WHERE? Pelham Town Hall, Council Chambers, 20 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill

Information

MORE INFORMATION
The Town of Pelham is proceeding with plans to reconstruct Port Robinson Road between Station Street and Rice Road in Fonthill. The project includes a new watermain with services, a storm sewer and sanitary sewer. Design for the project has been completed and the project is expected to be tendered for construction in April 2014.

The project is necessary to improve the condition of the road surface and address existing and future traffic volumes, drainage issues and a watermain near the end of its reliable life. Sanitary sewers will also be constructed to service both existing and future development. Current lane widths will be increased with bicycle lanes. Improvements proposed include concrete curb and gutter and new 1.5m wide sidewalks on both sides of the street.

At least one lane of traffic and access to local properties will be maintained for the duration of the construction period.

MAP

Process

The project is classified as a Schedule "A+" undertaking as defined in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document (October 2000 as amended in 2007). A Schedule "A+" project is pre-approved under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and includes the requirement for public notification prior to project implementation.

Details

A Public Information Centre has been arranged to provide an opportunity for individuals, interest groups and agencies to review the proposed design. The Public Information Centre will consist of an informal drop-in centre with drawings on display to present the project and provide the opportunity for comments. Representatives from the Town of Pelham and the engineering consultant, Upper Canada Planning and Engineering Ltd., will be present to answer questions and discuss the construction.

Disclaimer

Comments and information regarding this project are being collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purpose of meeting environmental assessment requirements. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record and taken into consideration prior to finalizing the design and/or construction mitigation measures.

pelham.ca

If you are unable to attend, or would like further information, please contact one of the following:
Jason Schooley, Project Design Manager, Upper Canada Planning and Engineering Ltd.
261 Martindale Road, Unit 1, St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1, T: 905-688-9400 F: 905-688-5274 E: jschooley@ucc.com
Alan Mannell, C.E.T., Director of Public Works & Utilities, Town of Pelham
20 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill ON L0S 1E0, T: 905-892-2607 ext. 313 F: 905-892-5055 E: amannell@pelham.ca

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Recreation Programs & Classes

Zumba Fitness @ Pelham Arena
Tuesday Mar 18 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Thursday Mar 20 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Zumba Gold @ Pelham Arena
Tuesday Mar 18 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Drop in and try any session for $6 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for $60. For more information on any of the Zumba classes, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! – Mar 18 and Mar 20
Interested in walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join us! Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30 am. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Arena Programs

Public Skating	Adult Public Skating	Adult/Preschool	Men's Shinny Hockey	Women's Shinny Hockey	Women's Learn to Play Hockey
Friday Mar 14 8:00 – 9:30 pm **Sunday Mar 16** 1:00 – 2:20 pm **Tuesday Mar 18** 7:30-8:30 pm	**Thursday Mar 20** 1:00 – 2:00 pm	**Tuesday Mar 18** 1:00 – 2:00 pm **Friday Mar 21** 10:00 – 11 am	**Tuesday Mar 18** 8:00 – 9:00 am **Friday Mar 21** 9:00 – 10:00 am	**Monday Mar 17** 10:00 – 11:00 am **Thursday Mar 20** 10:30 – 11:30 am	**Thursday Mar 20** 9:30 – 10:30 am

"Get Active for Life" Join us at a park near you! Participation is at no charge, but we do require a registration form be submitted.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00 – 11:00 am	Peace Park (Nordic Walking) (Poles available for use.)	Woodstream Park (Walking)	Peace Park (Walking)	Woodstream Park (Walking)	Cherry Ridge Park (Walking)
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Cherry Ridge Park (Walking)	Peace Park (Walking)	Pelham Arena (Walking)	Woodstream Park (Walking)	

For more information, please visit pelham.ca or contact jcook@pelham.ca or call 905-892-2607 ext. 329.

Community Events & News

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING re: Development Charges By-Law & Background Study - Wednesday, March 19, 2014, at 6:30 pm, Pelham Town Hall
Pursuant to Section 12 of the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, the Town of Pelham will hold a public meeting to present and obtain public input on the Town's development charges by-law and underlying background study. Visit pelham.ca/calendar for details.

NOTICE OF JOINT MEETING of Town Council, the Pelham Library Board and Friends of Maple Acre Library - Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 6:00 pm at Fire Station #2 (766 Welland Road, Fenwick). Visit pelham.ca/calendar for details.

Farmers' Market Vendor Applications – The Town of Pelham is currently accepting vendor applications for our 2014 Farmers' Market, which will run each Thursday starting May 1st and ending October 30th. Vendor stalls are $30.00/week or $200.00/season. Application packages are available on pelham.ca/farmers-market and at Pelham Town Hall.

Summerfest Vendor Applications - It's time to start planning to "Chill on the Hill"! Vendor applications for Pelham Summerfest are now available on pelhamsummerfest.ca.

Pelham Mayor's Gala Tickets Now Available – On Saturday, May 24th, 2014, Mayor Dave Augustyn and community volunteers will host the Sixth Annual Pelham Mayor's Gala at Lookout Point Golf & Country Club. Tickets are *NOW* available and sell out fast! Individual tickets are available for purchase at $135 each. Partnerships are also available through the *NEW* Mayor's Gala Champions Program. Please contact 905-892-2607 ext. 337 or mtoscher@pelham.ca.

Sneak It In Week 2014 – Get ready to strap on your sneakers and head outside because Town Council has officially proclaimed April 7 – 11, 2014 as "Sneak It In Week" across Pelham. Sneak It In Week is a program presented by ParticipACTION to get Canadians to "sneak in" a workout during their busy workday. Contact jruddell@pelham.ca for more information.

Pelham Heritage Tea Committee – Call for Members

Come join Pelham's 2014 Heritage Tea Committee!
We are eager to have you share your talents and help us plan our annual Heritage Tea Celebration happening on Saturday, June 28, 2014.

If interested, please contact 905-892-2607 ext. 312.

June 28th 2014

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LOCALNEWS

■ **LIFE IN TURMOIL:** Kim and David Lague's possessions were picked up by a moving company more than a half-year ago

Waiting for delivery ... six months later

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

More than six months ago, a moving company loaded all of Kim and David Lague's possessions into one of its trucks.

What was supposed to be a new beginning for the couple has turned into a moving nightmare.

They haven't seen them since. "Everything we ever worked for," said Kim, whose former career was as a special needs teacher and who at one time was a volunteer for the RCMP.

"It's just been one vicious circle," she said of months of false promises and unanswered phone calls placed to the movers.

"This has been a nightmare in every truest fashion," said her 56-year-old husband David. "We have a life — we want it back."

David and Kim, who was left paralyzed down her left side as a result of a stroke in 2004 and who suffers from Crohn's Disease, have been forced to camp out on an air mattress in the basement of David's sister's Welland home while their ordeal continues.

Among missing family photos and sentimental items that were packed into a moving truck Aug. 31 are birth certificates, tax forms with social insurance numbers and all the health-care aids Kim needs, including braces for her left hand, knees and legs.

"It's been a friggin' nightmare," said 53-year-old Kim.

"You don't realize what you own and what you'd miss until it's gone."

When the couple left their home in the Annapolis Valley, N.S., they made their way to Ontario in search of a new life. Kim's mom died earlier last year and the couple had wed on Christmas Eve 2011. David, an Ontario native, was widowed in 2010 after a 32-year marriage.

David found a job in Chatham, where about two weeks after arriving in September the couple found a home and put down a damage deposit and fees for utilities.

But because of what they've gone through since August, they lost all that, too.

The Lagues said they hired a Montreal-based moving and storage company to relocate their belongings from Nova Scotia for $1,695, which included five weeks of storage, something they required as they were looking for a place to settle and visit family en route to Ontario.

They compared moving prices to those of other companies and even contacted Quebec's business registries office, which David said verified the company was "legit." He said he even made sure it filed tax returns.

They said they paid a $400 deposit to the movers at the end of August when a man and woman came to load their pre-packed belonging onto a truck.

When in Chatham, they told the movers to deliver their possessions on Oct. 1. It was then, David said, that they "dropped this bomb on us." The bill would now be $6,600 including hundreds more for storage.

What followed, they said, were excuses about mechanical problems, weather, unreturned phone calls and unsatisfactory responses from police.

David said eventually in November the company gave them an offer to get 80% of their stuff back if they paid $4,000. They reluctantly agreed to pay the sum — in cash as demanded, no credit cards — to get all their items back.

After more delays, the couple were told their belongings would be delivered Dec. 20. Then, because of bad weather, it was changed to Christmas Eve.

They waited. No one showed.

There were no answers to calls placed to two cellphone numbers and an office number, they said.

"This is theft, this is fraud — this is something," said a frustrated David. "Where does the law kick in?"

Police in Quebec said the Lagues' case is one for the civil courts — a breach of contract — and not a criminal offence.

"It's a civil case, but we're keeping a detective on this case to make sure they get their stuff," Const. Mark David of the Longueuil police said earlier this week.

He said details of the Lagues' problems were brought to prosecutors who decided it's a matter for the civil courts. He also said the company has gone "belly up."

"There was no criminal intent," the constable said.

The Lagues strongly disagree.

They believe their possessions have been held for ransom.

Meanwhile, with some of the necessary ID packed away, Kim can't get OHIP.

The Lagues have tapped all their resources in hopes of getting their possessions back, which they value at about $60,000.

More than six months since they last saw their possessions, they're still waiting.

"We feel like we're in this black hole and can't get out."

Calls placed to phone numbers for the moving company and its owner were not returned to The Tribune this week. E-mail requests for interviews were also not returned.

Good news for David and Kim finally arrived earlier this week when they found out the truck with their belongings in it was discovered in Montreal.

After paying $100 for a contractor to free the truck of snow, the Lagues got word their possessions had been found.

Jim Carney, president of Mississauga-based Rawlinson Moving and Storage, heard about the Lagues' ordeal last month, and offered to offload their items into one of his trucks and deliver it at no cost.

It should arrive in Welland Monday.

Carney, who sits on the board of the Canadian Association of Movers, called this "The Year of the Rogue Mover." He said there's an ever-growing problem of people passing themselves off as reputable movers — a problem he said is made easy by the Internet.

Carney said for a move from Nova Scotia to Ontario, for a two-bedroom home such as the Lagues', people should expect to pay no less than $5,000.

"To pay $1,600 — that's a complete red flag there," he said.

Still, he's sympathetic to the Lagues' plight.

"They were just completely elated that we were doing this for them at no charge, just so they could get on with their lives," Carney said of his company's offer to pick up their belongings.

"We'll have to deal with what condition they're in when they get here," he said, concerned about mould and other damage that may have been incurred as the items sat in a hot truck at the end of last summer then stayed out in sub-zero temperatures throughout winter.

"I'll just be glad when Jim has it and it's secure," David said Tuesday.

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See Part 2 on Page 9

TIMELINE

Aug. 31, 2013 — Movers pack the Lagues' possessions into a truck in Nova Scotia

September — The couple find a home in Chatham, Ont.

Oct. 1 — Possessions are to be delivered, but aren't

November — Moving company ups $1,695 quote to more than $6,000; the Lagues agree to pay $4000 more to get their stuff back

Dec. 20 — Items are supposed to be delivered

Dec. 24 — Items again are promised to be delivered

February 2014 — The Lagues learn their belongings are in a truck in Montreal

March 4 — The Lagues hire a contractor to remove snow from around the truck, it is then verified it contains their possessions

March 7 — Rawlinson Moving and Storage offers at no cost to recover the Lagues' belongings in Montreal at no cost

March 10 — The Lagues' belongings are to arrive in Welland.

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LOCALNEWS

MOVING NIGHTMARE: A growing number of shady operators are preying on relocating homeowners

'The Year of the Rogue Mover'

Part 2 of 2
GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Once there was a time that the biggest worry about entrusting movers was whether a family heirloom would be damaged.

Today's increasingly growing concerns now include whether your goods are going to be held for ransom — or ever be seen again.

For an industry that has typically gotten a bad rap, there are more and more shady people posing as legitimate movers in order to make a buck.

"It's become an ever-increasing big problem," said Jim Carney, president of Mississauga-based Rawlinson Moving & Storage.

He's also a member of the board of the Canadian Association of Movers, for which member moving companies and their business practices are thoroughly scrutinized.

The Internet, Carney said, has made it easy for people to pose as reputable movers.

"You don't even need a truck and a crew, just a desk and a nice website."

And as he has come to learn, some of those websites include fake addresses and fake pictures.

Carney called this "The Year of the Rogue Mover."

The association — on its website www.mover.net — warns people to beware of cut-rate prices and "the criminal enterprise disguised as a moving company."

Be wary of companies with only cellphone numbers, those that take only cash, those that refuse to come to your home for a visual survey of your belongings.

Any unmarked trucks, that if a company were to change its name and numbers would have to repaint vehicles, is another good tip off, Carney said.

"If they're not on the Better Business Bureau, that's a red flag right there," Carney said.

David and Kim Lague, who for the past six months have been sleeping on an air mattress at a relative's home in Welland, thought they did take all the necessary steps to protect themselves.

They hired a Montreal-based moving company to relocate their belongings from the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia to Chatham, Ont., at the end of last August. They compared moving prices to those of other companies and even contacted Quebec's business registries office, which David said verified the company was 'legit.'

But despite all their efforts, the 56-year-old lost a job he had landed in Chatham, the couple lost the Chatham home they had found and the deposits paid for utilities. They lost thousands of dollars paid to get their $60,000 worth belongings from the moving company, which David said more than tripled its fees once it had possession of them.

They still don't know where they are.

"It just creates a bad name for movers," Carney said of the Lagues' story.

The moving truck with the Lagues' items contains identification needed to get a car here or a driver's licence. When they reported to their Nova Scotia leasing company that they had changed address to Welland, their car was repossessed two days later.

Without all necessary ID, 53-year-old Kim, paralyzed down her left side and who suffers from Chron's Disease, can't get OHIP.

They maxed out their credit cards in hopes of getting their possessions back, many now that are expected to be ruined because they've been kept outdoors in a trailer since last summer and over a frigid winter.

They have had to spend hundreds of dollars to buy new clothes and other needs in the meantime.

All they have gotten from the movers over a whopping half-year period, the Lagues said, were excuses about mechanical problems and false promises.

"They screwed with our lives," David said.

Longueuil, Que., police Const. Mark David said the Lagues' case is a matter for the civil courts — it is not a criminal matter because no criminal intent has been demonstrated.

David Lague said police went as far as to tell him that he should "feel sorry" for the movers because of problems it had been plagued by — despite him being able to piece together that he paid cash to company that had gone bankrupt in November and which made no attempt to off-load his possessions to another vehicle, nor return phone calls.

Niagara Regional Police Det.-Sgt Paul Spiridi, who heads the six investigators in the regional fraud unit, said local police have dealt with similar cases, often involving moves between provinces.

If someone were to pay a deposit and then never hear from a company again, the would be a clear case of theft.

But in a case such as the Lagues', which he would not specifically address, if some work is done — be it a move or a home renovation — but not completed, it becomes a breach of contract "where it's not criminal."

"The standards are very high to prove criminal intent."

In a civil case, he said, the balance of probabilities of truth become deciding factors in a court decision, whereas for criminal intent must be demonstrated "beyond a reasonable doubt."

He sympathizes with people left frustrated and many times out substantial sums of money.

"Fraud is probably the worst for having a grey area," Spiridi said.

He said he often tells people that for any legitimate way you can make money, there is someone else doing it criminally or not above board.

He suggested people stay away from what seem like low-ball prices, and to research companies on legitimate websites, such as the one for Ontario's Ministry of Consumer Services.

"Do what you can to minimize falling into traps," Spiridi said, but while adding a caveat.

"Even if you follow all the steps ... it doesn't guarantee there won't be problems," he said. "You can do your homework and things can still go wrong."

Unless lawmakers get tough and take a serious look at shady movers and establishing new criteria for criminal law, there will be many more stories like theirs to be told.

Carney said many people ripped off by rogue movers find themselves out thousands of dollars and left unable afford to hire a lawyer to take their cases to civil trial.

And there's no guarantee a favourable ruling would ever lead to any compensation.

The Lagues hope that if there is a positive side to their story, it is that it will serve as a cautionary tale.

Said Kim: "I know what hell we've gone through, and I don't want anyone else to go through it."

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St.Catharines - Day Program Lifetime Learning Centre 535 Lake Street - Room 104	Wednesday, March 19, April 9, or May 7 1:00 p.m.
Niagara Falls - Evening/Wknd Oakwood Park Lodge 6747 Oakwood Drive - Garden Room	Saturday, March 22, April 12, or May 10 10:00 a.m.

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LOCALNEWS

■ **ACCOLADES:** Honour to be presented March 26

Pelham skatepark earns Ontario design award

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Pelham News Staff

Isaac Riehl Memorial Skatepark in Pelham has been recognized with the 2014 Parks and Recreation Ontario Excellence in Design Award.

"We are so proud to have won this provincial award for our skatepark," said Vickie vanRavenswaay, recreation, culture and wellness director for the Town of Pelham. "It speaks to our community's ability to rally together to create an exceptional recreational facility for all to use and enjoy."

The provincial award recognizes the outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations that have enhanced the quality of life for Ontario citizens. The award showcases the very best of recreation and parks and also serves to draw attention to the importance and benefits of recreation for healthy people, vibrant communities and sustainable environments.

It recognizes high standards of planning, design, community involvement, operation and maintenance, quality of esthetics, usability, accessibility and versatility.

The award to the Isaac Riehl Memorial Skatepark will be presented March 26 at the 2014 PRO Educational Forum and Trade Show at the Sheraton on the Falls in Niagara Falls.

The Isaac Riehl Memorial Skatepark committee worked with New Line Skateparks Inc. to create a one-of-a-kind concrete skatepark that provides a world-class terrain and celebrates the public space by incorporating elements and sculptures relevant to Isaac and the community.

"We appreciate the design volunteers, the donors and the sponsors who helped make the Isaac Riehl Memorial Skatepark an award-winning community asset," said Mayor Dave Augustyn. "We look forward to formally presenting this award to the community during the grand opening in May."

In 2011, the Town of Pelham also received the PRO design award for its nine fully-accessible playgrounds.

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DAN DAKIN/TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Ian Scott, of Fenwick, performs a superman stunt at the Isaac Riehl Memorial Skatepark in Fonthill.

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LOCALNEWS

■ HORTICULTURE

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Samples of successful community gardens were presented at a public meeting in Pelham on Thursday.

Pelham eyes possible community garden

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Pelham News Staff

Green thumb residents had an opportunity to talk about the need for a community garden in Pelham March 6.

The Communities in Bloom committee, Pelham Horticultural Society and Greening Niagara held an open house to further discuss with the community its needs and interests in seeing a community garden in Pelham.

"We had about 40 people come out for the open house, most of them were avid gardeners who have the land to garden on, but not the right soil or sun. A lot of residents wanted a place where they could grow vegetables and herbs," said Jessica Ruddell, Pelham recreation, culture and wellness coordinator.

The idea was brought to council late in 2013 and at that time it approved the project in principle but needed to see a business plan before any decisions were made.

The open house gathered information that will be used in the business plan.

"I thought it was positive. We talked about garden size and possible locations. It will most likely be located on municipal-owned land. We're currently looking at the best location that will meet our criteria," said Ruddell.

Ruddell said it is unlikely the project will go ahead for 2014.

"We still have a lot that needs to get done before we're able to get going with this," she said.

Ideally, the garden would be self-supporting in maintenance and cost. Residents will be able to purchase their own plot in the garden, which Ruddell said will be at a low cost.

"We've also had people come forward who want to buy a plot and donate it for those who are having trouble financially."

Locally, community gardens have been a success in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines, as well as across Ontario and the world.

"A community garden is a great place for people to share their expertise, learn from others and teach children about gardening, sustainability and healthy eating habits. It really promotes nutrition," said Ruddell.

For more information, contact Ruddell at jruddell@pelham.com or 905-892-2607, ext. 341.

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LOCAL NEWS

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■ **SCIENCE:** Brock, McMaster universities partner on research

Red wine is a cancer fighter

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI Agency Niagara

We've all heard an occasional glass of wine does the body good. If research being done at Brock University pans out, a bottle of red wine might actually save lives.

A team from Brock and McMaster universities has shown red wine can prevent lung cancer cells from growing.

The study, titled Inhibition of human lung cancer cell proliferation and survival by wine, will be published this week in the journal *Cancer Cell International*, and demonstrates the cancer fighting impact of red wine.

Litsa Tsiani, an associate professor in Brock's department of health sciences, said it is too soon to say a glass of red is a viable cancer treatment, but the results are promising.

"The results on the molecular level is what is generating the excitement for us," said Tsiani.

Tsiani and the researchers exposed lung cancer cells to red wine in the laboratory.

"What we uncovered was a significant reduction in cancer cell proliferation," Tsiani said. "And that's what you want when you're trying to stop the spread of cancer."

Before she can say if red wine can be an effective tool in preventing tumours from growing, more work must be done.

Researchers must determine if the wine can still impact cancer cells the same way after the wine has been consumed and metabolized in the body. So the next step is to move to animal testing, Tsiani said.

"We have to start with mice and give them the equivalent of moderate consumption in humans, which would be about one to two glasses a day," she said.

Tsiani said she is confident the results will be positive.

In similar studies, she said the cancer-fighting properties of wine seen in the lab have been found in animals.

Tsiani said the results of the lab work shows further study is justified and she is in the process of trying to find funding to continue the research.

The abstract of the team's paper can be found at www.cancerci.com/content/14/1/16/abstract.

grant.lafleche@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @grantrants

■ **REGIONAL GOVERNMENT**

Region underfunded in battle against homelessness: staff

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Region does not get its fair share of federal and provincial dollars to deal with homelessness and Welland Coun. Dan Fortier is mad as heck about it.

When told at a public health and social services committee meeting Tuesday the underfunding was a long-standing issue, Fortier said perhaps it's time for an approach other than political.

"Maybe it's time for a radical approach," Fortier said.

"I wish my friend Peter Kormos was here to help us through that. We need to find a way to have some groups organize themselves at Queen's Park. We need these people to understand the deficiencies in the funding. We can't do it alone.

"This is a problem that's gone beyond being nice about it. We need support from other groups to advocate for this change, because unless we do it collectively, we aren't going anywhere."

The federal and provincial governments do not provide enough funding to adequately tackle homelessness, Sarah Pennisi, the Region's director of social assistance and employment opportunities, said during a presentation to the committee.

"Because the provincial and federal funding is insufficient, and is most likely to remain so, it's important that we prioritize and stretch the resources that we have and we make sure that we're making funding decisions that support a system of services, Pennisi said in detailing the Region's homeless service system review.

"And that means that we need to identify what core services are important to have and what's the best way to deliver those services."

Community Services directs approximately $4.2 million annually to social agencies in Niagara that provide homeless services. Those services include outreach programs, hostels, emergency funding for rent and utilities and homeless prevention programs.

The $4.2 million is broken down as such: $2.55 million comes from the province, $1.3 million from Niagara Region and $411,470 from the federal government.

IN BRIEF

Cold saps Niagara trees

The maple trees may be tapped, but the sap so far refuses to run as the winter deep freeze lingers on.

Several area sugar bush and maple-syrup producing operations report the season is from one to three weeks behind average.

"We're just about three weeks behind," said Richard Bering, CEO of White Meadows Farms in St. Catharines. "And we're waiting it out ... we're definitely getting worried. I don't think we've ever had this late of a start."

Bering said there might typically be a small sap run in February, "then it gets cold again for a couple of weeks — then we get into our run.

"But we haven't had anything yet," he said of sap expected from their 5,000 tapped trees.

Bering hoped forecasted warmer weather starting Friday would be a continuing trend.

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AARON BOGGIO
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OMEGA 3 FATTY ACIDS – "NATURALLY" EFFECTIVE FOR MANY COMMON MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Very few products available in your local pharmacy can claim as many uses as Omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3s are a type of unsaturated fat that are found in high quantities in certain fish (such as salmon, herring, sardines) as well as plant sources (such as flax).

The two most common Omega-3s found in supplements are EPA and DHA. Some supplements will have their Omega-3s derived from fish oils while others will be derived from plant sources. Be sure to choose a product that lists the amount of EPA or DHA per capsule.

There has been some concern by patients over the levels of heavy metals (such as mercury) in Omega-3 fish oils. However, heavy metals tend to accumulate in the protein of the fish rather than the fats. In addition, Health Canada tests all Omega-3 products for their heavy metal content before being made available to the public.

Here are 5 common medical conditions that Omega-3s can help treat:

1. Arthritis – Omega-3s have been shown to help decrease inflammation in the body, therefore they may help relieve some of the pain associated with both osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. Between 3 – 5 grams of EPA and DHA for 12 weeks are needed for the anti-inflammatory effects.

2. Hyperlipidemia – Omega 3-s can help lower triglyceride (fat) levels circulating in the body. High triglyceride levels contribute to the formation of fat deposits in blood vessels. This can lead to hardening of the arteries, which allows for the formation of dangerous clots which can cause a heart attack or stroke. Studies have shown that 2 – 4 grams of fish oils can lower triglycerides by 20-50%.

3. Hypertension – Omega-3s have a modest effect on reducing blood pressure and may be a viable option for patients with mild hypertension who do not wish to start a prescription medication at this time. Omega-3s reduce the production of agents that constrict blood vessels and increases production of agents that open blood vessels. For cardiac health, 1 gram of EPA plus DHA daily is recommended.

4. Depression – Studies have shown that 1 gram of EPA twice daily may yield anti-depressant and/or mood stabilizing effects. Omega-3s may be suited for the treatment of specific populations, such as pregnant or lactating women where conventional antidepressants must be used with caution.

5. Loss of Vision – Recent studies have shown the beneficial effects of omega-3s on vision, specifically decreasing risk of age related macular degeneration. Further investigations are needed to confirm the results of these studies, however many ophthalmologists are now recommending that their patients take Omega-3 supplements.

If supplements are not for you, try to replace the meat in two of your meals per week with fish. Certain populations (such as Mediterranean and Inuit) that eat high amounts of fish and little amounts of red meats have much lower rates of cardiovascular disease compared to the North American populations.

Omega-3s are not for everyone. For patients on blood thinners such as Coumadin (warfarin) or Aspirin (ASA), be sure to check with your physician or pharmacist before starting on Omega-3s as they may increase the risk of bleeding.

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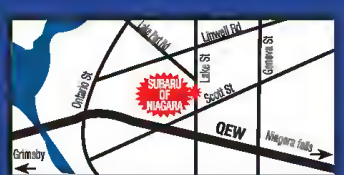

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• Ratings are awarded by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) (www.iihs.org). To qualify for 2014 TOP SAFETY PICK, a vehicle must earn good ratings in the moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraint tests, plus a good or acceptable rating in the small overlap front test. To qualify for 2014 TOP SAFETY PICK+, a vehicle must earn good ratings in the moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraint tests; a good or acceptable rating in the small overlap front test; and a basic, advanced or superior rating for front crash prevention. *MSRP of $25,995/$24,495 on 2014 Forester 2.5i (EJ1 X0)/2014 XV Crosstrek (EX1 TP). Advertised pricing consists of MSRP plus charges for Freight/PDI ($1,650), Air Tax ($100), Tire Stewardship Levy ($29.20), OMVIC Fee ($5), Dealer Admin ($199). Freight/PDI charge includes a full tank of gas. Taxes, license, registration and insurance are extra. $0 security deposit. Models shown: 2014 Forester 2.5i Limited Package (EJ2 LP) with an MSRP of $33,295. 2014 XV Crosstrek Limited Package (EX1 LP) with an MSRP of $28,995. Dealers may sell or lease for less or may have to order or trade. Vehicles shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. See your local Subaru dealer for complete program details.

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■ **HOCKEY:** Panthers eye title

Panthers off to NDLL finals

KATHY RYAN

With one game remaining in the playdowns, the Baron Roofing pee-wee Panthers have clinched the top spot in the Niagara District Local League (NDLL) A group and will be heading to a best-of-three series for the overall title.

The Panthers began the playdowns with a 5-2 victory over Welland #2. Josh Morningstar scored a pair of goals assisted by Tyler Scott, Zach Baltrusiunas and Blake Bishop. Jared Sloan tapped in to score from Drew Colangelo and Mitchell Karney and Eli Taylor netted a rebound from Reid Murray before Murray picked up an empty netter from Jack Obdeyn. Goalie Carter Nicholas earned the win.

The next game was a 6-2 win for the Panthers over Pelham #2. The scoring started with a penalty shot netted by Sloan. Obdeyn added a pair of goals assisted by Colangelo, Morningstar and Colton Morrison. Murray sent a backhander to the top of the net to score from Forest Turpel and both he and Sloan added a second goal to their stats to secure the win for goalie Scott.

Port Colborne #1 went down 7-2 in the next game. Morrison started things off with a goal from Colangelo. Dan Durkin's hard shot off the post was scooped up and dumped in by Murray. Colangelo warped the netting from Scott and Baltrusiunas before a nice passing series from Murray and Scott set up a goal for Baltrusiunas. Taylor took advantage of a sprawling goalie to score from Murray and Morrison while Scott finished strong with two goals assisted by Murray, Baltrusiunas and Turpel. Goalie Nicholas took the victory.

After a near two-week break, the Panthers were back on the ice to face West Lincoln #2. The teams were tied at the end of the second period with Baltrusiunas and Obdeyn each taking advantage of some open space in the goal (both helped by Colangelo). The Panthers put away the 5-3 victory in the third with goals from Murray (from Taylor and Sloan), Colangelo (from Sloan and Turpel) and Turpel (from Taylor and Murray). Key saves from Scott and solid work from the defense gave the Panthers the breathing room they needed in the fast-paced game.

The Panthers' 4-1 win over Niagara-on-the-Lake #1 gave the team the top spot in their group. Tied at the end of the first period with a goal from Colangelo, Morrison opened it up with two beautiful goals within a minute of each other (helped by Colangelo). An awesome passing sequence from Murray and Sloan set up Scott for the final goal. Nicholas showcased his hot glove hand making many key saves between the pipes.

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PELHAM DATEBOOK

MARCH 13

PASTA NIGHT AT CASA DANTE

Takeout dinners are available for $8 from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sauce, meatballs, minestrone soup, and pasta fagioli are also available for takeout.

MARCH 14

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE

to support the Kacey Lynn Fund is at the CAW Hall on Steel St. in Welland. Tickets are $10. Door prizes, auction table and spot dances with music by Rural Roots starting at 9 p.m. Doors open at 8 p,m, Tickets are available at the door or by calling Mary Dolan at 905-735-9526.

MARCH 15

DUCKS UNLIMITED

Port Colborne hosts a dinner and auction at Brebeuf Hall. Early bird draw Feb. 21. For tickets call Sharon at 905-834-9556.

PASTA DINNER

hosted by Fonthill Lions at its Hwy. 20 hall, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.. Adults $10, children under 12 $6. Cash bar. Takeout available.

MARCH 16

HUNGARIAN SPRING LUNCH

at the Hungarian Hall, 361 Hellems Ave., Welland, 12:30 p.m. At 2 p.m. will be a commemorative program to remember the March 15, 1848, revolution. Menu: vegetable soup, cabbage rolls, breaded chicken, potato, salad, coffee, tea and dessert. Tickets: Adult $20, children $ 10. For tickets call: Anna at 905-735-0959, Eva at 905-734-3593 or Tibor at 905-735-6447.

WANT YOUR NON-PROFIT EVENT INCLUDED?

SEND US YOUR INFO

When submitting listings by e-mail, please use only wtrb.datebook@sunmedia.ca. Please do not send attachments. Full listings online under Life

MARCH 17

FREE EMPLOYMENT HELP

Learn how to create a job-winning resume and cover letter. Presented at Pelham Public Library, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., by Niagara College Employment and Training Solutions. Register ahead by calling 905-892-6443.

INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES

workshop offered for free by Employment Solutions, 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 3 East Main St., Welland. Contact mzorgel@wellandheritagecouncil.com or Mariann Zorgel at 905-732-5337.

PELHAM HORTICULTURAL

Society meeting at the Fonthill library branch, 7:30 p.m.Darren Heimbecker will speak about the history of the building of Canada's newest botanical garden Whistling Gardens, Wilsonville, home to the World's largest conifer collection.

MARCH 18

STRESS MANAGEMENT

workshop offered by Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland. 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Free. Seating is limited. Contact mzorgel@wellandheritagecouncil.com or call Mariann Zorgel at 905-732-5337.

MARCH 19

WELLAND HORTICULTURAL

Society meets 7 p.m. at Wesley United Church, 244 First Ave. Chris DiRaddo will talk about edible gardens. All welcome.

MARCH 20

LEGO TIME

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to drop-in to build a Lego or Duplo creation. Do not bring your own Lego.

MARCH 22

PADDLE AUCTION

for the Pathfinders runs 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Goodwill building, Plymouth Rd., Welland. It's a fundraiser for the Welland Pathfinder's trip to Europe. Many vendors to choose from. Bring your quarters.

EUCHRE

hosted by Fonthill Lioness at 7 p.m. at the Fonthill Lions hall. Prizes, light food, cash bar. Cost $5.

Continued on Page 18

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Belleville.....(613) 961-5116
Burlington.....(905) 637-5671
Burlington West .(905) 390-3000
Brampton.....(905) 451-9054
Guelph .....(519) 224-0200
Kingston.....(613) 634-7700
Kitchener .....(519) 772-0299
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PELHAM DATEBOOK

From Page 17

MARCH 23

EASTER MISSION LUNCHEON

at St. John the Baptist Hungarian Greek Church, 111 Secord St., Welland. Divine liturgy 10:30 a.m., luncheon 12:30 p.m. For tickets call 905-732-2942 or 905-735-7055.

MARCH 24

BOOK SALE

running until March 29 at Pelham Public Library Gently-used books for sale, games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and more. On the 29th fill a grocery bag for $2.

WAINFLEET HISTORICAL

Society meets at 7:30 p.m. in the PI Hall of Marshville Heritage Village in Wainfleet. Members Geoff Bowden and Sandra Andrews will speak on "The Language of the Fan." Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 905-386-6978.

MARCH 25

PELHAM CARES AGM

public is welcome to attend the Pelham Cares Inc. annual general meeting at 2 p.m. at the Fonthill Legion, 141 Hwy. 20 West in the meeting room. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call Pelham Cares at 905-892-5300 or email info@pelhamcares.org.

MARCH 26

FREE FITNESS FOR YOU

Instruction in core workout, upper strength and weight training, 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at HolyTrinity Church, 119 Division St., Welland. Contact Mariann Zorgel to register at 905-732-5337.

MARCH 27

CLASSIC BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This month's selection is My Antonia by Willa Cather. Call 905-899-1277 to register as a book club member.

MARCH 31

EVENING BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6:30 p.m. This month's selection is Vanishing Acts by Jodi Picoult. Call 905-899-1277 to register as a book club member.

WILD WEST SHOWMAN

Tom Bishop Sr. of Ridgeville will talk about his career as producer of Wild West show and being a trick rider, stunt man and animal wrangler. This year, Tom Bishop's 4B Ranch Productions is celebrating 100 years, as a third generation carries on with "North America's Only Surviving Wild West Show." Starts 7 p.m. Cost $4. Register ahead.

Continued on Page 20

CANADIAN TIRE

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MotoMaster SE2 Tires

14″ ONLY $75
15″ ONLY $85
16″ ONLY $95
17″ ONLY $105

*Season is from February 28 to May 8, 2014

12 EQUAL PAYMENTS* NO FEE NO INTEREST
*Monthly payments, see inside back page. Min $300.

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For Full Tire Testing Results see www.canadiantire.ca/testresults

TESTED Overall Score 91.2

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Includes Special Order
**Applicable taxes, tire disposal fees and balancing not included.

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***See inside flap for details.

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Buy 3 of any tire shown below at our regular price and get the 4th identical tire for FREE!

**Purchase 4 General Tire Grabber A/T2 tires in a single purchase and receive a $35 prepaid Mastercard

†Balancing, taxes, eco fees extra (including free tire). Must purchase three of the same tire model to get the fourth identical one free. ††Financed on a 12-month equal payments plan. Applicable taxes, tire disposal fees and balancing not included.

$35 MAIL-IN REBATE**

	EVERTREK RTX	AW/H	WRANGLER SR-A	TOTAL TERRAIN A/T 2	GRABBER AT2	EAGLE SPORT A/S
REG	109.99 ea. up	104.99 ea. up	169.99 ea. up	139.99 ea. up	174.99 ea. up	116.99 ea. up
PROMO	27.50 mth††	26.25 mth††	42.50 mth††	35.00 mth††	43.75 mth††	29.25 mth††
	GENERAL TIRE	MOTOMASTER	GOODYEAR	MOTOMASTER	GENERAL TIRE	GOODYEAR
MODEL / BRAND	EVERTREK RTX	AW/H	WRANGLER SR-A	TOTAL TERRAIN A/T 2	GRABBER AT2	EAGLE SPORT A/S
TYPE	ALL-SEASON	TOURING	HIGHWAY	ON/OFF-ROAD	ON/OFF ROAD	TOURING
TIRE SPEED	T, H, V	H	S (P-METRIC SIZES ONLY)	S (P-METRIC SIZES ONLY)	S (P-METRIC SIZES ONLY)	V, W
VEHICLE	SEDAN	LUXURY SEDAN	LIGHT TRUCK/SUV	LIGHT TRUCK/SUV	LIGHT TRUCK/SUV	SPORT SEDAN/COUPE
TESTED Overall Score	97.1	94.6	95.5	On/off road light truck tire with high-density tread block sipes for all-season traction on snow, ice and wet surfaces	Tough all-terrain tire with self-cleaning tread pattern for off-road traction, durability and impressive paved road performance	Responsive handling and exceptional all-season grip thanks to a proven asymmetric tread

For Full Tire Testing Results see www.canadiantire.ca/testresults

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905 227-7491	905-899-0499	905 992-9275	905-835-1155	905-732-7501

PELHAM DATEBOOK

From Page 18

APRIL 2

NSNAP

Niagara Spay Neuter Assistance Program is holding a spring Easyer sale and fundraiser, April 2 to 6 in front of the Fairview Mall Zehrs. New and nearly new gift items, housewares, clothing, jewelry, baking and more. All funds go to spay/neuter in Niagara. Donations, cat food and volunteers gratefully accepted. Contact 289-897-8514 or see www.niagaraspayneuterassistance.org.

APRIL 3

SOUP FEST

to benefit Port Cares, with support from Niagara College, Lakeshore Catholic High School and Port Colborne High School, runs 11:30 a.m. to 1:30p.m. at the Italian Canadian Cultural Centre, 223 Bell St. Taste a variety of soups, breads and desserts. Enjoy the sounds of high school jazz bands and try your luck at a number of door prizes. Tickets are $15 each available at Port Cares or Boggio's Pharmacy, as well as at the door. Call Gloria at 905-834-3629 ext. 223 for more information.

APRIL 6

EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA

for Welland Pathfinders and Rangers runs 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4, 383 Morningstar Ave., Welland. Penny table, straw game, children's games and egg decorating. Lunch and refreshments available.

APRIL 8

THE SCOOTER DIARIES

Tove Bowman will be at Pelham Public Library to tell her love story — The Scooter Diaries: An Adventure Romance Through Latin America — that started in 1959, when Ron Bowman quit his job as a reporter and bought a 150cc Lambretta scooter intending to ride from Thorold all the way to South America. Register ahead for her 7 p.m. visit. Cost $4.

APRIL 13

BECAUSE YOU CARE

spring fashion show and luncheon in support of Walker Family Cancer Centre in St. Catharines will be held at Riverstone Event Centre in Welland. featuring fashions and accessories showcased by 270° West, Casual Ladies Wear and Monica's of Welland, fine quality intimate apparel and mastectomy fitting. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and the day will also include lunch, entertainment by the Mantini Sisters, raffle prizes, door prizes and a special gift for all attendees. Tickets are $40, available at Monica's of Welland, 86 West Main St., or 270° West, 224 West St., Port Colborne.

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MOTOMASTER SE2

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**Purchase 4 General Tire Grabber A/T2 tires in a single purchase and receive a $35 prepaid Mastercard

†Balancing, taxes, eco fees extra (including free tire). Must purchase three of the same tire model to get the fourth identical one free. ††Financed on a 12-month equal payments plan. Applicable taxes, tire disposal fees and balancing not included.

$35 MAIL-IN REBATE**

	GENERAL TIRE	MOTOMASTER	GOODYEAR	MOTOMASTER	GENERAL TIRE	GOODYEAR
REG	109.99 ea. up	104.99 ea. up	169.99 ea. up	139.99 ea. up	174.99 ea. up	116.99 ea. up
PROMO	27.50†† mth	26.25†† mth	42.50†† mth	35.00†† mth	43.75†† mth	29.25†† mth
	185/60R14 82H	185/60R14 86H	P235/60R18 103S	225/75R15 102S	LT235/75R15 104S	185/60R15 91V
MODEL	EVERTREK RTX	AW/H	WRANGLER SR-A	TOTAL TERRAIN A/T 2	GRABBER AT2	EAGLE SPORT A/S
TYPE	ALL-SEASON	TOURING	HIGHWAY	ON/OFF-ROAD	ON/OFF ROAD	TOURING
TIRE SPEED	T, H, V	H	S (P-METRIC SIZES ONLY)	S (P-METRIC SIZES ONLY)	S (P-METRIC SIZES ONLY)	V, W
VEHICLE	SEDAN	LIXURY SEDAN	LIGHT TRUCK/SUV	LIGHT TRUCK/SUV	LIGHT TRUCK/SUV	SPORT SEDAN/COUPE
				On/off road light truck tire with high-density tread block sipes for all-season traction on snow, ice and wet surfaces	Tough all-terrain tire with self-cleaning tread pattern for off-road traction, durability and impressive paved road performance	Responsive handling and exceptional all-season grip thanks to a proven asymmetric tread
TESTED Overall Score	97.1	94.6	95.5			

For Full Tire Testing Results see www.canadiantire.ca/testresults

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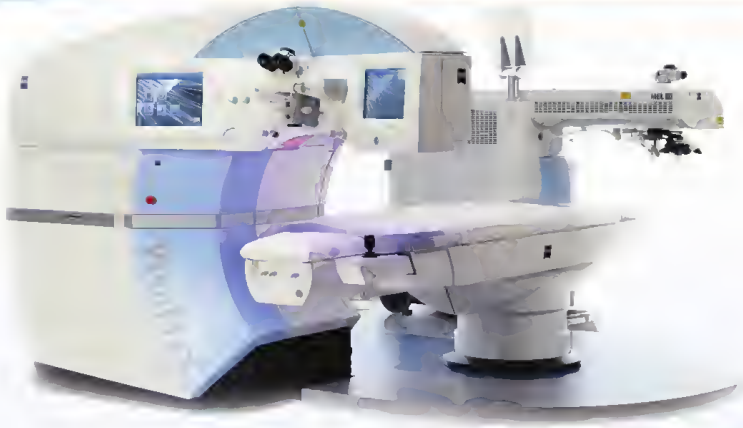

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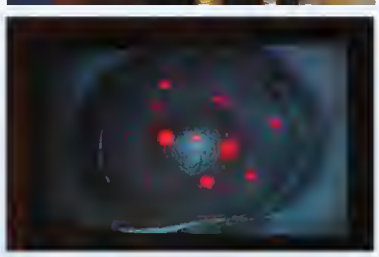
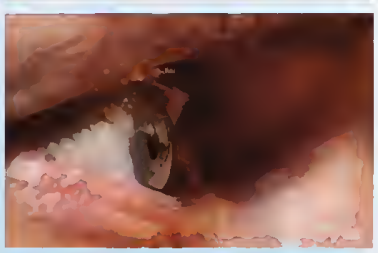
M.D. F.R.C.S.C, Dip. A.B.O
Celebrating over 100,000 procedures

Dr. Andrew Taylor knows how challenging it can be for consumers deciding on laser vision correction procedures. Understandably anyone would be confused by the wide range of fees associated with laser eye surgery. Some centers are offering quotes as low as $299 per eye with very vague guarantees. Consumers have caught on to the fact that these fees are never really as low as they seem. If you can't trust the advertised price, then how can you trust that provider to perform your surgery? These are your eyes, and the best guarantee in laser eye surgery comes directly from your surgeon, equipment and the professional staff that support both.

At Lasik Provision, laser vision correction is viewed as an art form. Dr. Andrew Taylor has hand selected an experienced team of individuals who are constantly striving to provide the finest in all aspects of your lasik experience. Dr. Andrew Taylor will personally perform your laser eye surgery. He has been serving the residents of South Western Ontario and the Northern United States for over 20 years. He can draw upon a personal experience of having performed over 100,000 successful lasik procedures to achieve the results you desire. Lasik Provision has superior technology and Dr. Andrew Taylor has personally used every major laser platform that is used in North America today. He lectures internationally in the field of laser eye surgery and on laser platforms. He is involved in the regulatory studies for the approval of new devices and procedures.



Dr. Andrew Taylor has chosen the Zeiss MEL 80TM Excimer laser and the Visumax Femtosecond Laser as his preferred platform. Carl Zeiss is internationally renowned for their expertise in optics, their lenses are likely to be the ones you use at home in your cameras. Carl Zeiss Meditec utilizes advanced engineering profiles which produce superlative, predictable refractive outcomes which is what you want as a refractive eye patient. The Zeiss MEL 80TM Excimer laser custom treats every eye with Wavefront technology. This laser is one of the fastest in the world; it uses dual eye tracking for accuracy and centration. It also uses aberration-optimized algorithms to reduce the incidence of night glare. Visual quality and stability is unsurpassed with the Carl Zeiss laser platform. The MEL 80TM laser has the newest technology providing correction for the presbyopic population. It is known as Zeiss BLENDED VISION, and is based on the principal of micro-monovision. It allows the eyes to maintain different focusing depths. Both eyes are corrected for intermediate distance at all times with one eye having a range of vision extending to distance and the other eye having a range of vision extending to near. This creates a functional range of clear vision across all visual fields; near, intermediate and far. The laser reshapes the cornea using different power zones to create useful spherical aberration; making the image disparity between the two eyes so small that the brain doesn't notice which eye it is using for far and near. This is the most exciting device in laser eye surgery today.



Lasik Provision is using the Carl Zeiss Meditec VisuMax Femtosecond laser for all flap creation in laser eye surgery. Dr. Andrew Taylor is performing bladeless lasik procedures. It provides maximum safety and comfort for the patients. It creates a thinner flap, allowing patients with thinner corneas an opportunity to have the potential for lasik. It uses minimal energy, allowing more precision and less tissue disruption and therefore faster healing.

Your eyes are precious and Dr. Andrew Taylor looks forward to providing you with a level of care that exceeds your expectations. Life was not meant to be viewed through glasses or contact lenses; life is about freedom. With these new technological breakthroughs, there has never been a better and safer time to experience the freedom so many millions of people have enjoyed with laser eye surgery.

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